

## **Brennan Woods Elementary**

Perched on top of a hill overlooking the small suburban community of High Ridge, Missouri, is Brennan Woods Elementary. It is located in the northwest corner of Jefferson County; part of the Northwest R-1 School District. This growing, yet transient district has received, for the past four years, the Distinction in Performance award, which is the highest award the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) can bestow on Missouri school districts.

“All children will learn, whatever it takes, No excuses,” is the mission our school embraces to ensure that the needs of all children are met. The smiling faces of 424 students are welcomed each day by a caring staff that supports and encourages every child in a positive and nurturing environment. Developing a partnership with our parents and others in the learning community also creates the climate of teamwork and responsibility. Our school implements and supports our district mission to produce, in partnership with our community, lifelong learners. This is achieved by providing an equitable, quality, multifaceted education which develops whole individuals. These individuals are prepared to meet the challenges of a changing global community and create a positive future.

Brennan Woods Elementary educates a social economically diverse student body in kindergarten through fourth grade. We provide a wide variety of programs including the Center for the Academically Talented Students, special education, emotionally disturbed, English as a Second Language and Title 1 Reading Resource. These programs supplement and support the regular education classroom. The use of technology advances our learning and is immersed in our curriculum. High expectations are important for everyone in the Brennan Woods Elementary learning community. Working together on site-based strategic planning teams, teachers develop plans of action to address student learning and determine effective instructional practices for at-risk students. Our CHARACTER plus program helps to nurture and create a warm and safe environment where children learn to treat others with respect and dignity. Like spokes of a wheel, our school community is unified in its effort to have each child be successful, regardless of socioeconomic status or background.

Because of our unifying goals and mission, Brennan Woods is one of the top ten performing elementary schools in Missouri. On the 2006 Missouri Assessment Program, Brennan Woods ranked third in the state of Missouri out of 1,165 elementary schools in the area of third grade mathematics. This placed Brennan Woods as the top performing St. Louis area school for third grade mathematics. Also, Brennan Woods was the top performing school in Jefferson County in third grade communication arts.

Our success is due, in part, to the highly dedicated and motivated individuals at Brennan Woods Elementary. A majority of our staff is seeking or has completed advanced degrees through local university course work. Additionally, teachers, support staff and parents generously donate their time and efforts for annual events that have become traditions at Brennan Woods. Some of these yearly activities include a Veteran’s Day community assembly and breakfast, caroling kindergarteners at a local nursing home, computer club, field/sport day, literacy nights and a grandparent’s luau.

Striving for the best and achieving excellence for every child is the core theme at Brennan Woods. The entire learning community of students, teachers, administrators and parents join together to accomplish these shared goals.